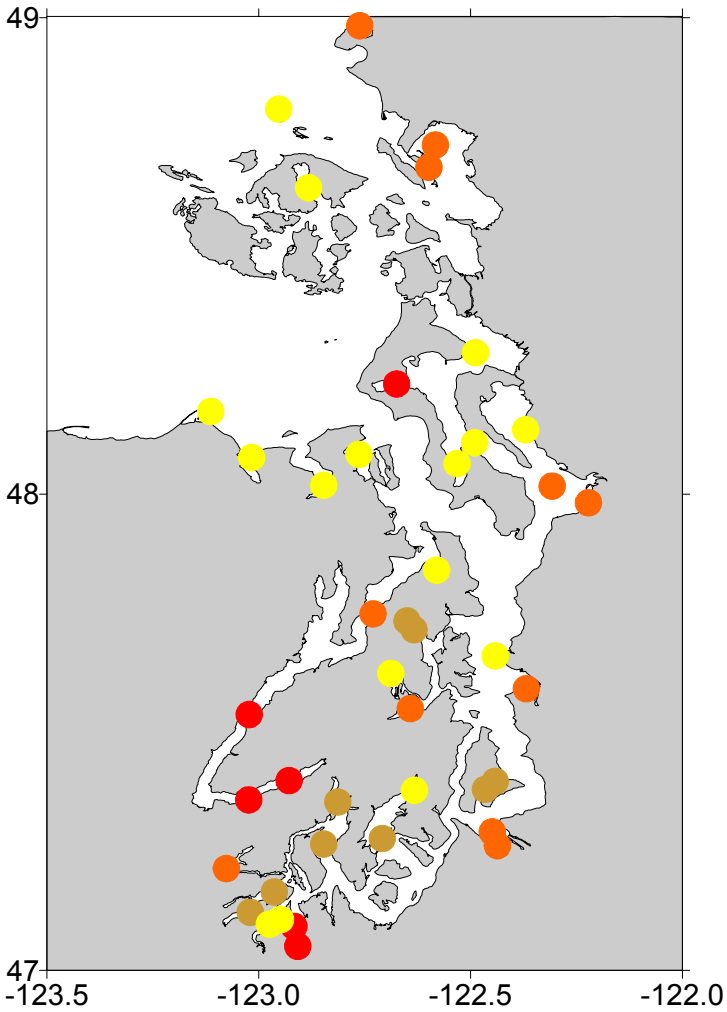
Marine Water Quality

	DO	FCB	DIN	NH4		Stratif	Concern
Budd Inlet	Very Low	High	Low	High		P	
S. Hood Canal	Very Low		Low			P	
Penn Cove	Very Low		Low			P	
Commencement Bay	Low	Very High				P	
Elliott Bay	Low	Very High				P	
Oakland Bay		Very High	Moderate	Moderate		E	
Grays Harbor		Very High		Moderate		P-E	
upper Willapa Bay		Very High	Low	Moderate		E-W	
Possession Sound	Low	High	Moderate	High		P	
Sinclair Inlet	Low	High	Low	Moderate		P	
Bellingham Bay	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate		P	
Drayton Harbor		Moderate	Low			S	
N. Hood Canal	Low		Low			P	
Port Orchard		High		Moderate		S	
Case Inlet	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate		S	
Carr Inlet	Low		Moderate	Moderate		S	
Quartermaster Hbr	Low			Moderate		S	
Totten Inlet			Moderate	Moderate		E	
Saratoga Passage	Low		Moderate			P	
Holmes Harbor	Low					P	
Skagit	Low					P	
Port Susan	Low					P	
West Point		Moderate				E	
Dungeness	Low					S	
Port Gamble	Low					S	
Sequim Bay	Low					S	
Discovery Bay			Low			S	
Willapa Bay			Low			E-W	
Dyes Inlet			Moderate			S	
Eld Inlet			Moderate			S	
East Sound				High		S	
Burley-Minter				Moderate		E	
Port Townsend	Low					W	
Strait of Georgia	Low					S	

Highest concern

Lower concern



The table above and adjoining figure show a gradient of concern for marine water quality issues based on Ecology/PSAMP monitoring data from 1994-2000. The concern level is the summed value of five indicators of environmental status listed in the table. The indicator attributes of most concern to water quality are shown in red in the table for each indicator. These were summed to generate a relative scale shaded from yellow (lower concern) to red (highest concern) for the figure. "DO" indicates when waters have had low (<5 mg/L) or very low (<3 mg/L) oxygen concentrations, which can be harmful to some marine organisms, such as fish. "FCB" refers to where fecal coliform bacteria are been detected at moderate (>14 orgs/100 mL once or more), high (chronic >14 or >50 once), or very high levels (chronic and >50 orgs/100 mL), which can often be indicative of sewage or agricultural contamination. "DIN" refers to where nitrogen dissolved nutrients are at presumably limiting concentrations for consecutive months (3 mo = moderate; 5 mo = low), indicating areas that would be susceptible to added nutrients from point and non-point sources, resulting in reduced water quality. "NH4" relates the finding of high (>0.14 mg/L) or moderate (0.07 mg/L) concentrations of ammonium, which is sometimes indicative of human sources of organic waste, such as sewage or agricultural runoff. "Stratif" stands for the natural amount of density stratification that the location has, which influences how readily pollutants will be mixed out or low oxygen concentrations persist (P=persistent; S=seasonal; E=episodic; W=weak).